



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 26, 2006

### **H.R. 4686** **Multi-State and International Fisheries Conservation** **and Management Act of 2006**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on March 29, 2006*

#### **SUMMARY**

H.R. 4686 would authorize appropriations for certain fisheries programs carried out by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Under existing law, authorizations for these programs will expire at the end of fiscal year 2006. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing this bill would cost \$10 million in fiscal year 2007 and \$73 million over the 2007-2011 period. (An additional \$25 million would be spent after 2011, including \$16 million that would be authorized for 2012.) Enacting H.R. 4686 would not increase direct spending or revenues.

This bill contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA); any costs to state, local, or tribal governments would be incurred voluntarily.

H.R. 4686 would reauthorize an existing mandate on the private sector. CBO estimates that the direct costs of extending the mandate (which prohibits fishing for Dungeness crab in certain United States waters without a permit or court order) would fall well below the annual threshold established by UMRA (\$128 million in 2006, adjusted annually for inflation).

#### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 4686 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
Spending Under Current Law For Fisheries Programs To Be Reauthorized By H.R. 4686						
Budget Authority/Authorization Level <sup>a</sup>	11	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	10	2	1	0	0	0
Proposed Changes						
Authorization Level	0	16	16	16	16	16
Estimated Outlays	0	10	15	16	16	16
Spending For Specified Fisheries Programs Under H.R. 4686						
Budget Authority/Authorization Level <sup>a</sup>	11	16	16	16	16	16
Estimated Outlays	10	12	16	16	16	16
<p>a. The 2006 level includes the amounts appropriated for that year for interjurisdictional fisheries and anadromous fish programs and the amounts authorized for that year for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention and the Atlantic Tunas Convention. (2006 funding for the two conventions is shown at the authorized rather than appropriated level because appropriations for those activities is not separately identified from other fisheries funding.)</p>						

## BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 4686 will be enacted by the end of fiscal year 2006 and that the entire amounts authorized will be appropriated for each fiscal year beginning in 2007. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for NOAA fisheries programs.

H.R. 4686 would authorize appropriations totaling about \$16 million for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2012 for financial assistance and other programs carried out under four fisheries acts, including:

- \$5.9 million annually for grants to states and fisheries commissions under the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act of 1986,
- \$4.5 million for cooperative agreements with states under the Anadromous Fish Conservation Act,
- \$5.5 million for research and other expenses under the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act of 1975, and

- \$0.5 million for implementing the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention Act of 1995, including paying the United States' share of joint expenses of the fisheries commission.

## **ESTIMATED IMPACT ON STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS**

H.R. 4686 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA. The bill would authorize funding for states that participate in fish conservation and management activities. Any costs to those states, including matching funds, would result from complying with conditions for receiving federal assistance.

The bill also would extend an existing provision of law that allows Washington, Oregon, and California to continue to manage commercial fishing for Dungeness crabs in federal waters adjacent to their states. Under existing law, the states' authority to manage their fisheries for Dungeness crabs will expire on September 30, 2006. Any costs to those states to continue regulating their fisheries would be incurred voluntarily.

## **ESTIMATED IMPACT ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR**

Current law, which is set to expire on September 30, 2006, prohibits vessels from fishing for Dungeness crab in the exclusive economic zone adjacent to California, Oregon, and Washington without an appropriate state permit or federal court order. H.R. 4686 would extend this mandate through September 30, 2016. Based on information provided by the California Department of Fish and Game, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, CBO estimates that the direct cost of extending the existing mandate would fall well below the annual threshold established by UMRA (\$128 million for 2006, adjusted annually for inflation).

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